



EASTHAM

Barnstable County



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NARRATIVE

Narrative

The Town of Eastham is a coastal resort community straddling the arm of Cape Cod. Located on the lower Cape, the town is bounded on only two sides by land, the other two being water, the Atlantic Ocean and Cape Cod Bay. Pre-colonial stands of oak and pine were long ago harvested for fuel and shipbuilding and the terrain of the town is now heavily saltmarsh and sand. Dissatisfied with Plymouth, in 1644 the directors of the Colony sent a seven-man delegation to scout Eastham for a new site for the center of government. The decision was not to move, but the seven members of the delegation brought their families and established a new town. The town has several harbors and these and the abundant shellfish are probably what brought these early settlers from the Plymouth Colony. The settlers' economy was based on agriculture, fishing and salt making, but Eastham's summer resort history began as early as 1830 when the Methodist Church established a summer camp meeting ground in town.

The coming of railroad connections in 1870 stimulated local market gardening and Eastham specialized in cranberries and asparagus for the city markets. Eastham had cod and mackerel fisheries and oysters to ship north. The town's harbors were not as good as those of other communities in the area, so agriculture remained more important to the town in the 19th century than did maritime trades. Grain production was abundant enough to allow Eastham to export her grain, while industry was never a real factor in the town. Residents note, however, that Swift and Company meatpackers began in Eastham before moving to Chicago.

Some original landscapes are still visible in the section of town inside the National Park areas while intensive modern residential growth has taken place in other areas of town.

(Seal supplied by community. Narrative based on information provided by the Massachusetts Historical Commission)



GEOGRAPHY

Location

Southeastern Massachusetts, on the forearm of Cape Cod. Bordered by Wellfleet on the north, the Atlantic Ocean on the east, Orleans on the south, and Cape Cod Bay on the west. Eastham is about 25 miles east of Hyannis; 92 miles southeast of Boston; 96 miles east of Providence, Rhode Island; and 273 miles from New York City.

Total Area: 27.26 sq. miles

Land Area: 13.99 sq. miles

Population: 4,462

Density: 319 per sq. mile

Climate

(National Climatic Data Center)

(Chatham WSMO Station)

Normal temperature in January.....30.4°F

Normal temperature in July.....67.3°F

Normal annual precipitation.....45.1"

U.S.G.S. Topographical Plates

Orleans, Wellfleet

Regional Planning Agency

Cape Cod Commission

Metropolitan Statistical Area

(1993 Definition)

Barnstable-Yarmouth



GOVERNMENT

Municipal Offices

Main Number: (508) 255-0333

[Telephone Numbers for Public Information](#)

Form of Government

Board of Selectmen

Town Administrator

Open Town Meeting

Year Incorporated

As a town: 1651

Registered Voters (Secretary of State 1994)

	Number	%
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Total Registered	3,287	
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Democrats	698	21.2 %	Republicans	666	20.3 %	Other parties	0	0.0 %	Unenrolled Voters	1,923	58.5 %
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Legislators

[Senators and Representatives by City and Town](#)



DEMOGRAPHICS

Table DP-1. Profile of General Demographic Characteristics: 2000

Geographic Area: Eastham town, Barnstable County, Massachusetts

[For information on confidentiality protection, nonsampling error, and definitions, see text]

Subject	Number	Percent	Subject	Number	Percent
Total population.....	5,453	100.0	HISPANIC OR LATINO AND RACE		
SEX AND AGE			Total population.....	5,453	100.0
Male.....	2,637	48.4	Hispanic or Latino (of any race).....	45	0.8
Female.....	2,816	51.6	Mexican.....	7	0.1
Under 5 years.....	208	3.8	Puerto Rican.....	14	0.3
5 to 9 years.....	249	4.6	Cuban.....	2	-
10 to 14 years.....	334	6.1	Other Hispanic or Latino.....	22	0.4
15 to 19 years.....	263	4.8	Not Hispanic or Latino.....	5,408	99.2
20 to 24 years.....	181	3.3	White alone.....	5,215	95.6
25 to 34 years.....	514	9.4	RELATIONSHIP		
35 to 44 years.....	778	14.3	Total population.....	5,453	100.0
45 to 54 years.....	822	15.1	In households.....	5,379	98.6
55 to 59 years.....	963	17.7	Householder.....	2,396	43.9
60 to 64 years.....	322	5.9	Spouse.....	1,318	24.2
65 to 74 years.....	790	14.5	Child.....	1,232	22.6
75 to 84 years.....	524	9.6	Own child under 18 years.....	885	16.2
85 years and over.....	106	1.9	Other relatives.....	156	2.9
Median age (years).....	47.6	(X)	Under 18 years.....	53	1.0
18 years and over.....	4,488	82.3	Nonrelatives.....	277	5.1
Male.....	2,114	38.8	Unmarried partner.....	121	2.2
Female.....	2,374	43.5	In group quarters.....	74	1.4
21 years and over.....	4,365	80.0	Institutionalized population.....	-	-
62 years and over.....	1,629	29.9	Noninstitutionalized population.....	74	1.4
65 years and over.....	1,419	26.0	HOUSEHOLD BY TYPE		
Male.....	653	12.0	Total households.....	2,396	100.0
Female.....	766	14.0	Family households (families).....	1,635	68.2
RACE			With own children under 18 years.....	524	21.9
One race.....	5,376	98.6	Married-couple family.....	1,318	55.0
White.....	5,252	96.3	With own children under 18 years.....	355	14.8
Black or African American.....	81	1.5	Female householder, no husband present.....	237	9.9
American Indian and Alaska Native.....	8	0.1	With own children under 18 years.....	129	5.4
Asian.....	17	0.3	Nonfamily households.....	761	31.8
Asian Indian.....	1	-	Householder living alone.....	610	25.5
Chinese.....	5	0.1	Householder 65 years and over.....	296	12.4
Filipino.....	1	-	Households with individuals under 18 years.....	568	23.7
Japanese.....	2	-	Households with individuals 65 years and over.....	959	40.0
Korean.....	4	0.1	Average household size.....	2.24	(X)
Vietnamese.....	-	-	Average family size.....	2.66	(X)
Other Asian ¹	4	0.1	HOUSING OCCUPANCY		
Native Hawaiian and Other Pacific Islander.....	2	-	Total housing units.....	5,535	100.0
Native Hawaiian.....	1	-	Occupied housing units.....	2,396	43.3
Guamanian or Chamorro.....	-	-	Vacant housing units.....	3,139	56.7
Samoa.....	-	-	For seasonal, recreational, or		
Other Pacific Islander ²	1	-	occasional use.....	2,893	52.3
Some other race.....	16	0.3	Homeowner vacancy rate (percent).....	1.7	(X)
Two or more races.....	77	1.4	Rental vacancy rate (percent).....	17.3	(X)
<i>Race alone or in combination with one</i>			HOUSING TENURE		
<i>or more other races:</i> ³			Occupied housing units.....	2,396	100.0
White.....	5,326	97.7	Owner-occupied housing units.....	1,972	82.3
Black or African American.....	92	1.7	Renter-occupied housing units.....	424	17.7
American Indian and Alaska Native.....	38	0.7	Average household size of owner-occupied units.....	2.27	(X)
Asian.....	28	0.5	Average household size of renter-occupied units.....	2.14	(X)
Native Hawaiian and Other Pacific Islander.....	6	0.1			
Some other race.....	44	0.8			

- Represents zero or rounds to zero. (X) Not applicable.

¹ Other Asian alone, or two or more Asian categories.

² Other Pacific Islander alone, or two or more Native Hawaiian and Other Pacific Islander categories.

³ In combination with one or more of the other races listed. The six numbers may add to more than the total population and the six percentages may add to more than 100 percent because individuals may report more than one race.

Source: U.S. Census Bureau, Census 2000.



HOUSING CHARACTERISTICS

Home Sales (Banker & Tradesman) -

[Town Stats - Free market Statistics](#)

Subsidized Housing Units (DHCD 1998)

[DHCD Subsidized Housing Inventory](#)

Subsidized Housing Units: The number of housing units which count toward the municipality's 10% goal for low- and moderate-income housing. It includes both subsidized affordable units and market rate units in certain eligible subsidized developments.

Public Housing Units (DHCD 1999)

Conventional State	0
Conventional Federal	0

Rental Assistance (DHCD 1999)

State (MRVP)	0
Federal (Section 8)	0



TRANSPORTATION

TRANSPORTATION AND ACCESS

Eastham is situated on Cape Cod, a 65-mile long sandy peninsula comprising Barnstable County. The Cape has excellent highway, rail, bus and air connections to other parts of New England. Air, bus, and passenger rail service expand during the summer months to accommodate the large numbers of tourists.

Major Highways

The principal highway is U.S. Highway 6, which runs N-S along the Cape Cod National Seashore.

Total highway mileage is 101.48 (45 miles of local roads).

Rail

There is no freight rail service, but the network of intermodal facilities serving Eastern Massachusetts and Rhode Island is easily accessible.

Bus

Eastham is a member of the Cape Cod Regional Transit Authority (CCRTA), which operates a b-bus demand response service.

Other

The Chatham Municipal Airport, a General Aviation (GA) facility located in neighboring Chatham, has a 3,001' long asphalt runway. Instrument approaches available: Non-precision. Scheduled airline flights are available at the Hyannis Municipal Airport in Barnstable, and at the Provincetown Municipal Airport in Provincetown.



CULTURE AND RECREATION

LIBRARIES

[Board of Library Commissioners On-line Library Catalog](#)

MUSEUMS

(American Association of Museums)

None

RECREATION

[Telephone Numbers for Public Information](#)

Recreational Facilities (Recreational sites and activities)

[Department of Environmental Management Recreation Section](#)



MISCELLANEOUS

HEALTH FACILITIES

(Dept. of Public Health 1992)

Hospitals

None

Long Term Care

None

Hospices

None

Rest Homes

None

UTILITIES

[Telephone Numbers for Public Utilities](#)

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NOTE: The COMMUNITY PROFILE draws information from a diversity of sources. The main source of information is listed under each section. In some instances comments submitted by the municipality were incorporated to correct and/or enhance the information obtained from the main source. However, no changes were made to those data bases which must be consistent throughout the state. DHCD has made efforts to ensure the accuracy of all data in the COMMUNITY PROFILES, but cannot take responsibility for any consequences arising from the use of the information contained in this document.